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Essen Some More News about the Destruction
of Louvain : 1915

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Some More News about the Destruction of Louvain

By

LÉON VAN DER ESSEN

**Professor of History in the
University of Louvain**

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SOME MORE NEWS ABOUT THE DESTRUCTION OF LOUVAIN

A short time ago, as a result of false statements appearing in Chicago newspapers about Louvain and the atrocities committed in Belgium, I felt myself compelled to publish *A Statement about the Destruction of Louvain and Neighborhood*. I incorporated in that statement the reports of some of my colleagues, who were either victims or eyewitnesses of the outrages committed by the Germans at Louvain.

1. A German resident of Chicago has attacked that statement, declaring that I did not give the names of my informants. I thereupon cabled to my informants in England and obtained their permission to give their names. The most important eyewitnesses of the destruction of Louvain were Professor Canon Léon Noël, Professor Léon Verhelst, and Professor J. Havet. Professor Noël is well known through his publications on philosophy and as secretary of the *Annales de l'Institut supérieur de philosophie* of Louvain; Professors Verhelst and Havet, too, are well-known scholars. Their testimony as eyewitnesses of the occurrences at Louvain, is strengthened by their standing as scientific men, and, as they were on the spot, their statements cannot be drawn in question.

In addition to permitting the use of his name Professor Havet, professor of histology in the faculty of medicine at Louvain, addressed me the following letter:

Je ne vois pas de difficultés bien sérieuses à ce que vous vous serviez de mon nom pour affirmer les faits que j'ai vus, dont j'ai été le témoin oculaire et auriculaire.

Encore y aurait-il l'un ou l'autre inconvénient à souffrir, que je suis prêt à le supporter. Car j'ai le courage de mes convictions et il n'y a pas un allemand au monde qui puisse me faire dévier de ce que je crois être le vrai. Ainsi donc, je puis répondre pour les faits que j'ai vus, dont j'ai été témoin. Je n'ai pas de haine pour les allemands, malqué tout le mal qu'ils nous ont fait et nous font encore. J'ai soigné leurs soldats, qui avaient des plaies purulentes, avec tout le dévouement qu'on pouvait y mettre. Quelques uns de leurs soldats s'en souviendront longtemps.

Mais, si je n'ai pas de haine contre eux, si même je leur pardonne les angoisses que j'ai ressenties pour mes enfants, lors du "bombardement" de

Louvain, je dois à la vérité de dire que les allemands ont commis à Louvain et autour de Louvain des atrocités sans nom, que rien ne justifie.

Je ne vais pas crier cela sur les toits. Mais quand un homme, cherchant des renseignements, m'interroge sur ce que j'ai vu, je ne puis pas ne pas lui dire la vérité.

C'est d'ailleurs en vain que les allemands croient et font croire qu'il y a dans ces histoires horribles des exagérations et des mensonges. Je comprends d'ailleurs leur attitude car moi-même, qui ne suis pas allemand, mais qui connais les allemands, jamais on ne serait parvenu à me faire croire que les allemands auraient pu commettre de pareils actes, si je ne les avais vus de mes yeux.

Le commandant militaire de Louvain lui-même, assistant, il y a un mois, au déterrement des cadavres enfouis dans le parc de la station, déplorait les massacres inouis commis à Louvain et se demandait comment des gens de si bonne instruction pouvaient se laisser aller à des actes semblables.

DR. J. HAVET

I append a translation of that letter:

I see no serious obstacle in the way of your making use of my name in support of the things of which I have been a witness—which I have both seen and heard.

Even if there were some inconveniences resulting, I am prepared to support my statements. For I have the courage of my convictions and there is no German in the world who can make me budge from what I believe to be the truth. I can vouch, therefore, for the occurrences of which I have been an eyewitness. I have no hatred for the Germans, notwithstanding all the evil which they have done and are still doing to us. I have cared for their soldiers who suffered from infected wounds with all the devotion it was possible to give them. Some of their soldiers will remember this for many a day.

But if I have no hatred for them, if I even pardon them for the anxiety I was subjected to on account of my children during the "bombardment" of Louvain, I owe it to truth to assert that the Germans have committed unspeakable atrocities without justification, both in Louvain and in its vicinity.

I am not purposing to shout this from the housetops. But when anyone seeking information questions me as to what I have seen, I can but tell him the truth.

Moreover, it is useless for the Germans to believe, and to seek to make others believe, that these horrible stories include exaggerations and mis-statements. I can appreciate their attitude, since I myself, who am no German, but who understand the Germans, could never have been brought to believe that the Germans were capable of committing such acts if I had not seen them with my own eyes.

The [German] commander of Louvain, who was present some time back at the disinterment of the corpses buried in the park in front of the

station, spoke regretfully of the unheard-of massacres committed at Louvain, and wondered how men with such good education could lend themselves to the commission of acts of such a nature.¹

DR. J. HAVET

Another of my colleagues, Professor Thoreau, professor of mineralogy, who also was a victim and an eyewitness of the atrocities committed at Louvain, and who published the statement of what he suffered and what he saw in the *Hampshire Observer* of Winchester, England (November 21, 1914), writes me:

Pour ce qui concerne la brochure que vous venez de faire paraître à Chicago, je ne puis qu'affirmer la haute honorabilité des personnes qui ont témoigné, toutes parfaitement connues de moi, ainsi que l'authenticité des témoignages et ma profonde conviction de la véracité des faits rapportés.

A translation of this follows:

As for the pamphlet that you recently published in Chicago, I can only bear witness to the high standing of the people who testified, all of whom are perfectly well known to me, and to the authenticity of their testimony and to the fact that I am entirely convinced of the truth of the facts reported.

2. The Chicago German has further asserted: "You know as well as I that the British commission has investigated more than a thousand cases and still could find no evidence of German atrocities in Belgium."

To which I reply: The president of that commission is Mr. Bryce, former British ambassador to Washington, well known in the United States. Some time ago, we read in American newspapers a report given out by Mr. Bryce, saying that *the commission was still investigating* and that, unfortunately, "the reports on atrocities committed in Belgium were only too well substantiated."

Besides that official British commission, there is in London a branch of the Belgian commission of inquiry. That branch is presided over by a man of the highest ability, Sir MacKenzie Chalmers, K.C.B., former vice-secretary of state for the Home Department, former member of the Council of India. After the witnesses had testified before him on oath and had been cross-examined, the "Tenth Report of the Belgian Commission of Inquiry" (Le Havre, January 6, 1915), was issued over his signature. That

¹ A report of the discovery of those victims and of the words uttered by the German commander, Col. Lubbert, has been published by an eyewitness in the Dutch newspaper *De Tijd*, of January 21, 1915.

report is to be found on pages 117-30 of the *Rapports sur la violation du droit des gens en Belgique* (Paris, Berger-Levrault, 1915).

Sir MacKenzie Chalmers vouches therein for the statements: (a) that all over Belgium civilians were used as a shield¹ by the German troops in order to protect them against the fire of the enemy; (b) that a large number of civilians, men, women, and children, have been taken as prisoners of war, sent to Germany, and there treated in a most shameful manner; (c) that a large proportion of these arrested civilians have been shot.

That there was no reason whatever for these acts is established in detail in the aforementioned report. This is substantially what the British Commission and the British president of a branch of the Belgian Commission have so far stated about the atrocities in Belgium.

3. As to the reports of the Belgian Commission, it has been said by the defenders of the German cause that they have no value, as being clearly biased and one-sided. That is not the fault of the Belgian government; it is due to the German government, and the German commanders in Belgium.

Indeed (a) the Belgian government never refused a hearing to the other side in respect to the accusations against the German troops. Moreover, it authorized the Belgian newspapers to declare that it was ready to co-operate in the organization of an international commission of inquiry, composed of delegates of non-belligerent nations. The German government made no reply to that proposal.

(b) Formal proposals made by the Belgians to some of the leading Germans were rejected. The Belgian Socialists proposed to the German Socialists Noske, Wendel, and Koster, on their visit in Brussels, to take up with them a counter-inquiry. The German deputies refused.

(c) M. Charles Magnette, senator for Liège and Grand Master of Belgian Freemasons, proposed to the Masonic lodges of Germany to organize a commission of inquiry, the members to consist of Freemasons from neutral countries, to which were to be added a German and a Belgian Freemason. That proposal was unequivocally rejected by Herr Wilhelm Suss, in a letter dated at Darmstadt, September 27, 1914, and by the Grand Lodge "Zur Sonne" of

¹ The Germans themselves admit it, as is shown by an extract of a report of a German officer, reproduced in Bédier, *Les Crimes allemands d'après les témoignages allemands* pp. 20-21.



Amputated hand of the Belgian soldier, Théophile Levant, of the 5th Lancers, wounded in the battle of Alost (September 27) by a German expanding bullet. The amputation was effected by Drs. Van de Velde, Neiryck and De Bruyker on the 27th of September, at 8 o'clock p.m.

Bayreuth. Both replied that it would be an insult to the German troops to admit the possibility of their committing atrocities! None of the other seven lodges to which M. Magnette sent his proposal ever replied.

4. A very recent proof of the fact that the Germans do not like to be confronted with evidence of atrocities charged against their troops is to be found in the following letters, passing between Cardinal Mercier and the German Col. Wengersky, district-commander at Malines:

MALINES, le 20-1-1915

JRN. NR. 268/II

A Son Eminence le cardinal-archevêque de Malines:

D'après une note parue dans un journal, de nombreux prêtres auraient été tués, quoique innocents, dans le diocèse de Malines.

Pour pouvoir commencer une enquête, je prie Votre Eminence de bien vouloir me communiquer si des prêtres ont été tués, quoique innocents, et quels prêtres ont été tués.

Je désire beaucoup apprendre dans quelles circonstances ces faits se seraient produits, quelles troupes peuvent être mises en cause éventuellement et à quelles dates les événements se seraient produits.

Le chef de district

(s.) WENGERSKY

Colonel

[Translation]

MALINES, 20-1-1915

JRN. NR. 268/II

To His Eminence the Cardinal Archbishop of Malines:

According to a note published in a newspaper, numerous priests have been killed, although innocent, in the diocese of Malines.

For the purpose of enabling me to begin an investigation, I beg Your Eminence to be so kind as to inform me whether priests have been killed, although innocent, and if so, what priests have been killed.

I wish very much to know under what circumstances such events occurred, what troops can be charged eventually with responsibility for the acts, and on what dates the events took place.

The district-commander

(s.) WENGERSKY

Colonel

To that letter, which he received on the 24th of January, Cardinal Mercier replied:

ARCHEVÊCHE DE MALINES

le 24 janvier 1915

MONSIEUR LE KREISCHEF:

J'ai l'honneur de vous accuser réception de la lettre 268/II, datée du 20 janvier, que vous avez bien voulu me faire parvenir.

Le noms des prêtres et des religieux du diocèse de Malines qui, à ma connaissance, ont été mis à mort par les troupes allemandes sont les suivants: Dupierreux, de la Compagnie de Jésus; les frères Sébastien et Albert, de la Congrégation des Joséphistes; le frère Candide, de la Congrégation des frères de la Miséricorde; le père Maximin, capucin; le père Vincent, conventuel; Carette, professeur; Lombaerts, Goris, De Clerck, Dergent, Wouters, Van Bladel, curés.

A la date de Noël, lorsque je publiai ma Lettre pastorale, je ne savais pas encore avec certitude quel sort avait subi le curé de Hérent; depuis lors, son cadavre a été retrouvé à Louvain et identifié.

D'autres chiffres cités dans ma Lettre pastorale devraient être aujourd'hui majorés; ainsi pour Aerschot, j'avais donné le chiffre de 91 victimes; or, le total des Aerschotois déterrés s'élevait, il y a quelques jours, au chiffre de 143. Mais le moment n'est pas venu d'appuyer sur ces faits particuliers. Leur relation trouvera place dans l'enquête que vous me faites espérer.

Ce me sera une consolation de voir la pleine lumière se faire sur les événements que j'ai du rappeler dans ma Lettre pastorale et sur d'autres du même ordre.

Mais il est essentiel que les résultats de cette enquête apparaissent à tous avec une indiscutable autorité.

A cet effet, j'ai l'honneur de vous proposer, monsieur le comte, et de proposer par votre obligeante entremise aux Autorités allemandes que la commission d'enquête soit composée, en parties égales, de délégués allemands et de magistrats belges, et présidée par le représentant d'un pays neutre. Je me plais à penser que Son Excellence M. le ministre des Etats-Unis ne refuserait pas d'accepter cette présidence ou de la confier à un délégué de son choix.

Agréez, je vous prie, monsieur le Kreischef, les assurances de ma haute considération.

D. J. CARD. MERCIER,
Arch. de Malines

Translation]

ARCHBISHOPRIC OF MALINES
January 24, 1915

SIR KREISCHEF:

I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of your letter 268/II, dated January 20, that you were so kind as to send me.

The names of the priests and monks of the diocese of Malines who, to my knowledge, were killed by the German troops, are: Dupierreux, of the Society of Jesus,¹ Brothers Sebastian and Albert, of the Order of St. Joseph; Brother Candide, of the Congregation of the Brothers of Mercy; Fr. Maximin, a Capucin; Brother Vincent, a conventual; Carette, a teacher; Lombaerts, Goris, De Clerck, Dergent, Wouters, Van Bladel, parish priests.

¹ See the report of his death in my pamphlet, *A Statement about the Destruction of Louvain*, p. 21.

On Christmas Day, when I published my Pastoral Letter, I did not know with certainty what had been the fate of the parish priest of Herent; since then his dead body has been discovered at Louvain and identified.

Other figures given in my Pastoral Letter would have to be increased at this time: for instance, for Aerschot, I gave the number of 91 victims. But the total number of the dead citizens of Aerschot discovered amounted, some days ago, to 143. However, the time has not yet come when we may rely upon those details. An account of them will be given a place in the inquiry for which you lead me to hope.

It will be a consolation to me to have light thrown on the events I felt compelled to mention in my Pastoral Letter, as well as on others of the same kind. But it is essential that the results of that inquiry should be made public, supported by the most indisputable authority.

To this end, I have the honor, therefore to propose to you, Count, and through your kind agency to propose also to the German authorities, that the commission of inquiry should be composed equally of German delegates and Belgian magistrates, and presided over by the representative of a neutral country. I am glad to think that His Excellency the ambassador of the United States would not refuse to accept the presidency or to assign it to a delegate chosen by him.

Accept, Sir Kreischef, the assurance of my high esteem.

D. J. CARD. MERCIER
Archb. of Malines

To that proposal, made on January 24, Cardinal Mercier never received any reply.

It seems clear then that the German government and the German officers in Belgium do not approve of the establishment of a neutral and impartial court, at least at this time, and it seems equally clear that, if there is one-sidedness in the Belgian reports, neither the Belgian government nor the Belgians are to be blamed for it.

5. Finally, the German who attacked my "Statement" said: "What about the testimony of Dr. Coenrad, vice-regent of the University of Louvain? You remember, do you not, that he was one of the hostages and that he walked the streets of Louvain, on August 25 for more than five hours in company with Father Dillen and the Belgian former minister to Roumania, begging the people to cease firing (*sic!*) or the German guard would shoot the hostages. Dr. Coenrad states: 'There is no doubt in my mind that the German soldiers were ruthlessly fired upon . . . the shots which I heard for at least five minutes [he speaks of the beginning of the firing in Louvain] were not those of German guns.'"

To that alleged testimony of Mgr. Coenraets (and not Dr. Coenrad) I had only one reply to make: "That statement attributed to our vice-rector is a *German forgery*." So I made it. It was a sweeping reply, but at that time I could not say more. I remembered quite well that such a statement was attributed to Mgr. Coenraets, at the end of August, 1914, in the German newspapers, and that shortly afterward our Belgian newspapers printed a reply from Mgr. Coenraets, saying that "he never gave out a statement of that kind." I remembered, too, that in his denial, Mgr. Coenraets added that, when he was led through the streets of Louvain, surrounded by German soldiers, he did not see one civilian firing.

I could have replied by quoting that statement. But I did not remember whether the Belgian newspapers which quoted the denial of Mgr. Coenraets were the *Métropole* and the *Bien Public* or others, and I could not remember the exact date on which those papers published the denial.

As a historian, I did not dare, under such circumstances, to quote those newspapers without being sure of their names and date. So I contented myself with the statement that the words attributed to our vice-rector were a German forgery.

Since then, I discovered the whereabouts of Mgr. Coenraets: he is staying in Heerlen (Dutch Limburg) as a refugee. I sent him the text of the quotation that was attributed to him and I received, by cablegram, the following reply:

HEERLEN, March 25


Déjà donné démenti formel journaux belges

COENRAETS

which, translated, means: "I have already sent formal denials to Belgian newspapers. COENRAETS."

In order that no one should entertain any doubt about the authenticity of that reply, I present herewith a photographic facsimile of the cablegram. The question is thus settled. Mgr. Coenraets, vice-rector of the University of Louvain, never stated that he saw the civilians of Louvain firing on German troops, and he sent a formal denial to the Belgian newspapers when the Germans in August, 1914, attributed to him the words quoted above. I had thus the right to say that the statement used by my German critic was a German forgery.

That is not all. Just as an alleged report of Mgr. Coenraets was used here in Chicago, in the same way an alleged report of the Dominican Fathers of Louvain was used by a professor of Freiburg. That professor was a German, named J. Partsch. He related in his own manner the events which occurred at Louvain and, in support of his accusations, appealed to the testimony of the Dominican Fathers of Louvain. That maneuver did not succeed, for M. Jean Bary,

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director of the Belgian newspaper *La Flandre libérale*, of Ghent, some time after the paper had suspended publication on account of the German occupation, received a letter to the following effect:

LOUVAIN, le 30 novembre 1914

Monsieur le Rédacteur en Chef:

L'un des premiers jours d'octobre *La Flandre libérale* a communiqué à ses lecteurs une lettre de M. J. Partsch, professeur à Fribourg, relatant à sa façon les malheureux événements survenus à Louvain les 25, 26 et 27 août. Dans une parenthèse il invoque à l'appui d'assertions que nous estimons absolument inexactes, le témoignage des Dominicains de Louvain.

Comme d'autres messieurs, il veut faire passer les Dominicains comme ayant affirmé que les civils ont tiré sur les troupes allemandes, ce qui aurait provoqué les terribles représailles dont la ville a souffert.

Ayant été, seul des Dominicains, mêlé activement et de façon conséquente aux événements des jours susdits, j'estime de mon devoir de donner un démenti formel à M. J. Partsch et d'avertir le public que ni moi, ni aucun Dominicain de Louvain ne peut être cité en témoin du fait que les civils ont

tiré sur les soldats allemands. D'ailleurs nous ne croyons pas que ce fait se soit produit. J'ai personnellement déclaré sous la foi du serment devant le juge d'instruction allemand que je n'ai aucune preuve d'un tel fait. Tous les Dominicains de Louvain sont dans le même cas, prêts à en rendre témoignage.

(s.) PÈRE FR. HYAC. M. PARYS
Sous-prieur des Dominicains.

which translated, means:

LOUVAIN, November 30th, 1914

To the Editor-in-Chief:

On one of the first days of October, the *Flandre libérale* published a letter of M. J. Partsch, professor in Freiburg, reporting in his own manner the unhappy events occurring in Louvain on August 25, 26, and 27. In support of assertions which we believe to be absolutely incorrect, he appeals parenthetically to the testimony of the Dominican Fathers of Louvain. As others have done, he tries to represent the Dominican Fathers as having declared that the civilians fired on the German troops, and that this provoked the terrible reprisals from which the city suffered.

As I am the only one of the Dominican Fathers who took an active and consequent part in the events of the days in question, I think it my duty to oppose a formal denial to M. J. Partsch and to warn the public that neither I nor any of the Dominican Fathers of Louvain may be quoted as a witness to the fact that the civilians fired on the German troops. Moreover we do not believe that such a thing occurred. I personally declared on oath before the German judge of inquiry that I did not see one citizen of Louvain firing on the soldiers and that I have no proof of such a fact. All the Dominican Fathers of Louvain are of the same mind, ready to bear witness to it.

(s.) FATHER FR. HYAC. M. PARYS
Vice-prior of the Dominican Fathers

Finally, concerning the destruction of Louvain, we have not only the reports of the eyewitnesses I quoted in my former pamphlet and of many others, but we have, too, the statement of a *neutral* eyewitness, a Dutchman. That eyewitness is L. H. Grondys, former professor at the technical school at Dordrecht (Holland). He went to Belgium in order to investigate whether there was any truth in the alleged German atrocities. He happened to stay in Louvain during the destruction of the town, and he kept a diary of the events, which he quoted day after day. Recently, in the interests of justice, he published his diary under the title: *Les Allemands en Belgique. Louvain et Aerschot. Notes d'un témoin hollandais* (Paris, Librairie militaire Berger-Levrault, Rue des Beaux-arts, 5-7. A pamphlet of 123 pages. 12 cents).

Everyone who reads that testimony of a neutral and impartial eyewitness and compares it with my *Statement about the Destruction of Louvain* will see that M. Grondÿs' report confirms point by point the statement I published. He will see the testimony of Professor Noël, concerning the girl who was violated and then stabbed by bayonets, confirmed; he will see that the inhabitants did all that was possible to satisfy the invaders; he will see how the destruction began; he will read how the Church of St. Peter was intentionally set on fire; how women were taken by the soldiers out of their homes during the night and abducted to the country in the darkness; he will read of the wholesale shooting of innocent civilians; he will see the proof that no investigation was made in order to learn whether the civilians really fired on the troops; and he will find much of interest in chapter v, dealing with the reason for the destruction of Louvain. And finally, after having seen my report on the murder of Fr. Dupierreux completely confirmed, he cannot but close the booklet as much disgusted as was the Dutch eyewitness himself when he left unhappy and devastated Belgium.

It has been said, too, that if atrocities were committed, they were very rare and ought to be regarded as excesses committed by individual soldiers. The wholesale shooting of civilians at Louvain shows that it was more than mere excesses committed by individual soldiers. I have not the list of the victims of Louvain, but I said in my statement that up to the 8th of September 42 dead bodies were found in the ruins of the houses. At the end of January, 29 other dead bodies were discovered in the park in front of the station. But the complete list of the victims must be very much larger, as Mme Nicaud alone saw at least 50 men shot in the Rue de la Station. Those victims were shot without any trial, as is demonstrated by the report of M. Grondÿs and the reports of my colleagues.

What is to be understood by "wholesale shooting" of civilians? At Dinant, the town was sacked by the German army on August 21, 22, 23, 24, and 25, 1914. The whole town was set on fire, the houses looted, and 1,400 out of 1,600 buildings destroyed. A Dutch correspondent of the *Telegraaf*, who was on the spot, counted 800 civilians killed (*Telegraaf*, December 8, 1914). Just as at Louvain, the massacre of Dinant was carried out, not during or after a battle, but after some days of peaceful occupation.

The official list of the citizens who were killed gives only 612 victims who were identified. Among them are:

25 old men above sixty-four years of age: Edmond Manteaux, 71; Gustave Nicaise, 77; Léon Nicaise, 75; Félix Simonet, 73; Julien Disy, 68; Jules Jacquet, 65; Piérard Soume, 67; Alexandre Georges, 67; Emile d'Arrès, 67; Auguste Mathieu, 67; François Fastrez, 68; Jules Seghin, 68; Célestin Bon, 65; Charles Rouffiange, 68; Félicien Genot, 65; Henri Georges, 68; Charles Bietlot, 76; Collard, 70; Victor Demacle, 69; Léopold Gonze, 66; Eugène Lahaye, 67; Alfred Gilain, 64; Emile Coupienne, 64; Jules Monard, 70; Couillard, 70; Bouchat, 70.

Murdered women: Mme Stevaux, 75 years; Marsigny, 23; Thonon, Jadot, 80; Chabottier, 80; Delaete, Morelle, Anciaux, the widow Joris, Rasneu, Adrienne Piette, 74; the widow Jacquet; Léopoldine Monin, Pauline Fonder, 18; Joséphine Lion, Eloise Bovy, 23; Adèle Bovy, 28; Marie Defayse, Marie Schram; Mme Jules Materne; the widow Hénenne; Marie Pinsmaille; her daughter; Marie Minet; Nelly Rodrique; Odille Fastrès; Jeanne Bourdon; Henriette Poncelet; Mme Bétemps; Marie Martin, Clotilde Bourguignon; Mme Kinique; Martha Neaujot; Marie Paquet; Marie Diskeuve; Mme Paulet; Louise Paulet; the widow Javaux; Henriette Martin; Louise Kinique, 18; Mme Collard, 83; Eugénie Pullet; Gilda Genon; Nelly Paulet; Gilda Marchot; Renée Dufrenne; Mme Bultot; Victorine Delimoy; Mme Toussaint; Léonie Bultot; Mme Joseph Guéry; Jeanne Lempereur; Marie Guéry; the widow Even, 75; Georgette and Anna Charlier; Charlotte Laloux; Mme Florin; Céline Toussaint; Thérèse Dulieu; Mme Meura; the three daughters of Meura; Marguerite Gustin; the daughter of Cajot; Mme Dauphin; Henrietta Roulin; Germaine Roulin; Juliette Herman.

Murdered boys and babies: Joseph Firmin, 16; Jules Vinstock, 15; Léon Colle, 16; Georges Collignon, 16; Vital Sorée, 15; Maurice Broucoux, 16; Eugène Deloge, 15; Edmond Thibaut, 15; Alphonse Monin, 15; Louis Chabottier, 15; Marcel Hennuy, 15; René Mouton, 15; Georges Delacy, 14; Emile Neppe, 15; Constant Migestte, 15; Georges Zwolden, 14; Eugène Goffin, 15; Jules Gaudinne, 16; Marcel Fonder, 15; Benjamin Louys, 15; Louis Ferret, 15; René Dupont, 10; the son of Boudon, 16; the daughter of Boudon, 13; Kinique, 11; Claire Struvay, 2½; Marcel Bovy, 5; Felix Balleux, 20 months; Félix Fivet, 3 weeks; Joseph Dupont, 8;

Jean Rodrique, 6 months; X. Bétemps, 2½; Edmond Bourguignon, 1 or 1½; Edmond Gustin, 3; Norbert Bultot, 2½; Michan, 1.

Entire families wiped out: M. Alardeau and his 3 sons; M. Servais and his 3 sons; M. Brignon, his 2 brothers-in-law, and his father-in-law; the 3 sons of M. Malaise and his son-in-law; M. Morelle, his wife, his 2 children, his mother-in-law, his sister-in-law; 4 members of the family of Meura; 4 of the family of Dauphin; 4 of the family of Bouvy; 3 of the families of Schram, Delage, Lion, Beaujot, etc.

That is only the score for one Belgian city: Dinant. Is there any American ready to believe that the old men, the women, and the babies had endangered the security of the German army? Were they all snipers?

And, in order to show that the "wholesale shooting" of civilians did not occur in Louvain and Dinant alone, I give here the list of victims, killed in the town square of the little town of Taminés, between Namur and Charleroi. I call attention to the fact that 11 women are among the victims and that whole families have been wiped out.

Victor Albert; Alexis Alexis; Emile Bruyère; Jules Boutefeu; Edmond Bierlaire; Alfred Bodart; Emile Bodart; Léon Bodart, Sr.; Léon Bodart, Jr.; Zéphirin Bodart; Joseph Bruart; Adrien Baudry; Jules Bily; Adolphe Blistin; Léonard Bonnet; Jean Ch. Bogaerts; Ferd. Burniat; Maurice Burniat; Ephrem Biélande; Victor Barbier; Jacques Bette; Jules Benoit; Achille Bodart; Ernest Bleus; Augusta Bauwens; Jean B. Bauloye; Victor Chenal; Bononi Culot; Emile Collin; Félix Clément; Isidore Clamot; Antoine Cavalier; Alex. Cabouy; Alex. Clause; Gustave Carette; Alphonse Couvreur; Aline Cobut; J. B. Cobut; Jean Claes; Marie Colgmhemener; J. B. Copeau; Eug. Croisier; Jules Debauche; Camille Dupont; Jules Delcharlerie; Oscar Dessy; Joach. Delvigne; Jean Ph. Delvigne; Siméon Delvigne; Marcel Dautrebande; Victor Duchemin; Louis Demoulin; Hubert Demoulin; J. B. Demoulin; Jules Demoulin; Gustave Demoulin; Prosper Dury; Olivier Dambremont; Joseph Denis; Gustave Devillers; Emile Delatte; Riche Delfosse; Charles Decocq; Jules Damar; Franz Denis; Martin Delpeuch; Henri Desguin; Laurent Dumont; Joseph Debry; Hubert Devillez; Georges Devillez; Robert Devillez; Léon Duvivier; Constant Dogot; Gustave Docq; Adrien Docq; Gustave Delaitte; Omer Demaret; Georges Desoete; Louis Defaux; Emile Descamps;

Léopold Detreau; Arthur Debloq; Jules Delsauvenière; J. B. Deschamps (épouse); Léopold Defays; Octave Daiffe; Joseph Dauchot; Flor. Dotreppe; Fern. Damar; Fern. Defays; J. B. Doucet; Edouard Dubois; Ern. Evrard; Aug. Fooz; Arthur Fruchard; Arth. Fauvelle; Jules Fondu; Léop. Fievet; Jos. Fievet; Jules Foulon; Charles Frédéric; Jos. For'homme; Fanuel (ern.); Eug. Falque; Cam. Fontaine; Louis Guillaume; Jos. Gollière; J. B. Gilbert; Antoine Gilbert; Roger Gilbert; Jos. Goffin; Louis Goffin; François Genevrois; J. B. Grodent; J. B. Gaspard; Achille Gaspard; François Gilson; Joseph Gilson, Sr.; Joseph Gilson, Jr.; Adelin Gilson; Camille Gilson; Jean Grégoire; Firmin Glime; Alidor Glime; Joseph Gilles; Olivier Gaziaux; Emile Gaziaux; Aug. Greepont (épouse); Louis Gossiaux; Fortuné Grosfils; Georges Grosfils; Flore Garot; Constant Gueubelle; Adolphe Gosset; Rd. Curé Hottlet; Félicien Hocq; Zéphir. Henin, Sr.; Zéphir. Henin, Jr.; Alidor Hanouille; Jean Huybrechts; Alph. Huybrechts; François Huybrechts; Jules Hazée; Eugène Hucq; J. B. Henin; Max. Hubeau; Jules Hubeau; Florent Henry; Aug. Hennion; Alex. Hittelet; Gustave Hansotte; Céline Humbrecht; Alphonse Hellen; Justin Hesmans; Nestor Hiernaux; Hamelin; Pierre Haesel; Félicien Istasse; Joseph Istasse; Emile Istasse; Alex. Jeantot; Jos. Jacquet (Dinant); Jules Javaux; Fernand Jaumain; Joseph Jaumain; Vincent Jaumain; Auguste Jaumain; Emile Jaumain; Casimir Joaris; Roger Kaisse; Victor Lambert (Fosses); Louis Loriaux (père); Louis Loriaux (fils); Jules Loriaux; Fernand Leseut; Jules Leblanc; Georges Linard; Léon Linard; Justin Lemal; Joseph Laurent; Léon Lekief; Elmire Lefevre; Lucien Ledoux; Eugène Ledoux; Louis Ledoux; Joseph Ledoux; Sébastien Ledoux; Georges Ledoux; Joseph Lambert; Alexis Lison; Louis Legrand; Remi Lorand; Edouard Lecaille; Ferd. Lambotte; Dieudonné Laporte; Lucien Lannoy; Léon Lannoy; Marie-Louise Léonard; Gabrielle Leclerq; Alex. Ladrille; Hubert Liquens; Hubert Laviolette; Achilles Leroy; Désiré Lorette; Fernand Ledoux; Anatole Mathieu; Adrien Milquet; Alfred Minon; Gustave Mollet; Joseph Massart; Fernand Massart; Antoine Melchior; Arsène Melchior; Louis Melchior; Emile Melchior; Antoine Malotteau; Léon Malotteau; Nestor Mollet; Joseph Mollet; François Massart; Pierre Moreau; Arthur Moreau; Orban Moreau; Jérôme Modave; Emile Materne (père); Emile Materne (fils);

Léonard Materne; Geoges Monyard; Fernand Monyard; Auguste Monyard; Crépin Marin; Albert Mouton; Léop. Mouthuy; Fois Jos. Martin; Jules Michaux; Joseph Matagne; Florent Moussiaux; Jules Moussiaux; Marcel Mombeek; Mombeek (épouse); Frans Moussiaux; Jules Maniet; Camille Nalinne; Henri Nalinne; Désiré Noël; Emile Namèche; Oscar Namèche; Pierre Namèche; Joseph Noël; Alexandre Notte; Félicien Piette; Joseph Patris; Joseph Patriarche; Alfred Pirmez; Marcel Pirmez; Noël Patris; Hubert Philappart; Joseph Philappart; Eugène Pochet; Joseph Poncin; Sylvain Piette; Paul Pèpin; Cornélius Pelsmaeckers; Pierre Pelsmaeckers; Jules Pietquin; Joseph Piette; Léopold Permiganau; Jules Quinart; Constant Renard; Jules Reman; Lucien Reman; François Reichel; Hippolite Robert; Albin Robert; Arsène Robert; Marcel Robert; Emile Robert; Hubert Rousselle; Louis Rousselle; Lison Alfr. Robert; Norbert Raphaël; Xavier Robert; Fortuné Robette; Narcisse Rondia; Hector Roquet; Joseph Rosart; Emile Renard; Rolly; Rochet; Joseph Sevrin; Edgard Sevrin; Ferdinand Sevrin; Emile Sevrin; Achille Sevrin; Denis Sevrin; J. B. Sevrin; Justin Sevrin; Emile Steinier; J. B. Steinier; Florent Steinier; Louis Steinier; François Steinier; Camille Steenbeeke; Alex Stasse; Ern. Sottiau; Joseph Schokaert; Jos. Salmon; Jos. Steenwit; Louis Stimart; Victor Seressia; Seghin (épouse); Camille Seghin; D. Schlit; Emile Thibaut; Louis Thibaut; Léop. Thibaut; Jos. Thibaut; Arthur Thibaut; Ern. Thibaut; Jean Thibaut; Louis Thibaut; Louis Thibaut; Henri Tourneur; Léopold Thomas; Ernest Tilquin; Va. Thiry; Emile Thirion; J. Vandeloise; Louis Vandenborne; Jean-Louis Verschoren; Jules Van Hoeck; Paul Van Hoeck; Jules Van Hoeck, Jr.; Joseph Van Osterwyck; Louis Vigneron; Dré Vigneron; J. B. Vigneron; Jean Vets; Henri Verhaegen; Edouard Van der Roost; Frans Verbruggen; François Wouters; Octavien Wartique; Arm. Wiame; Emile Wartique; Félix Wouters; Albert Warnier.

Even if there had been snipers among those men—which is not the case, according to the testimony of Mr. L——, who escaped, and according to the testimony of an engineer, Mr. D——, who was wounded but escaped by swimming across the river Sambre—the fearful massacre of those 348 civilians is contrary to the Hague Convention, which says (sec. 3, Art. 1): “No general penalty, pecuniary or otherwise, can be inflicted on the population on account

of the acts of individuals, for which it cannot be regarded as collectively responsible."

I have presented the preceding documents and facts in order to show that the attempt to throw suspicion on my former "Statement" is inconsistent and that, when I say that something is a forgery, I can prove it.

NOTE.—While the foregoing was in the printers' hands I received from Mgr. Coenraets the following letter:

Le 26 mars 1915

MON CHER COLLÈGUE:

Comme suite au cablogramme que je vous ai adressé hier, je vous transmets la copie du démenti que j'ai fait insérer, le 8 Septembre, dans les journaux hollandais et plus tard dans les journaux belges que j'ai pu atteindre:

"Uw nummer van Zaterdag 5 Sept. zou de lezers in den waan kunnen brengen dat, volgens mijn getuigenis, *Leuvensche burgers* op Duitsche soldaten geschoten hebben.

"U zult mij ten goede houden dat ik bij dezen openlijk en met nadruk verklaar in het geheel niet te weten van wie de enkele schoten kwamen die ik slechts van uit de verte hoorde en die zeker op de mij vergezellende soldaten niet waren gericht.

"Van een schieten door ook slechts een enkelen Leuvenschen burger is mij volstrekt niets bekend."

Hoogachtend,

E. COENRAETS

Vice-rect. der Leuvensche Hoogeschool

I append a translation:

March 26, 1915

MY DEAR COLLEAGUE:

Following the cablegram I sent to you yesterday, I communicate to you the transcript of the denial I sent, on September 8, to the Dutch newspapers and later on to the Belgian newspapers I was able to reach.

"Your copy of Saturday, September 5, might induce your readers to believe that, according to my testimony, *civilians of Louvain* have fired on the German soldiers.

"You will permit me to declare hereby publicly and emphatically that I do not know in what way or by whom the few shots were fired which I heard only in the far-off distance and which surely were not fired at the soldiers who surrounded me.

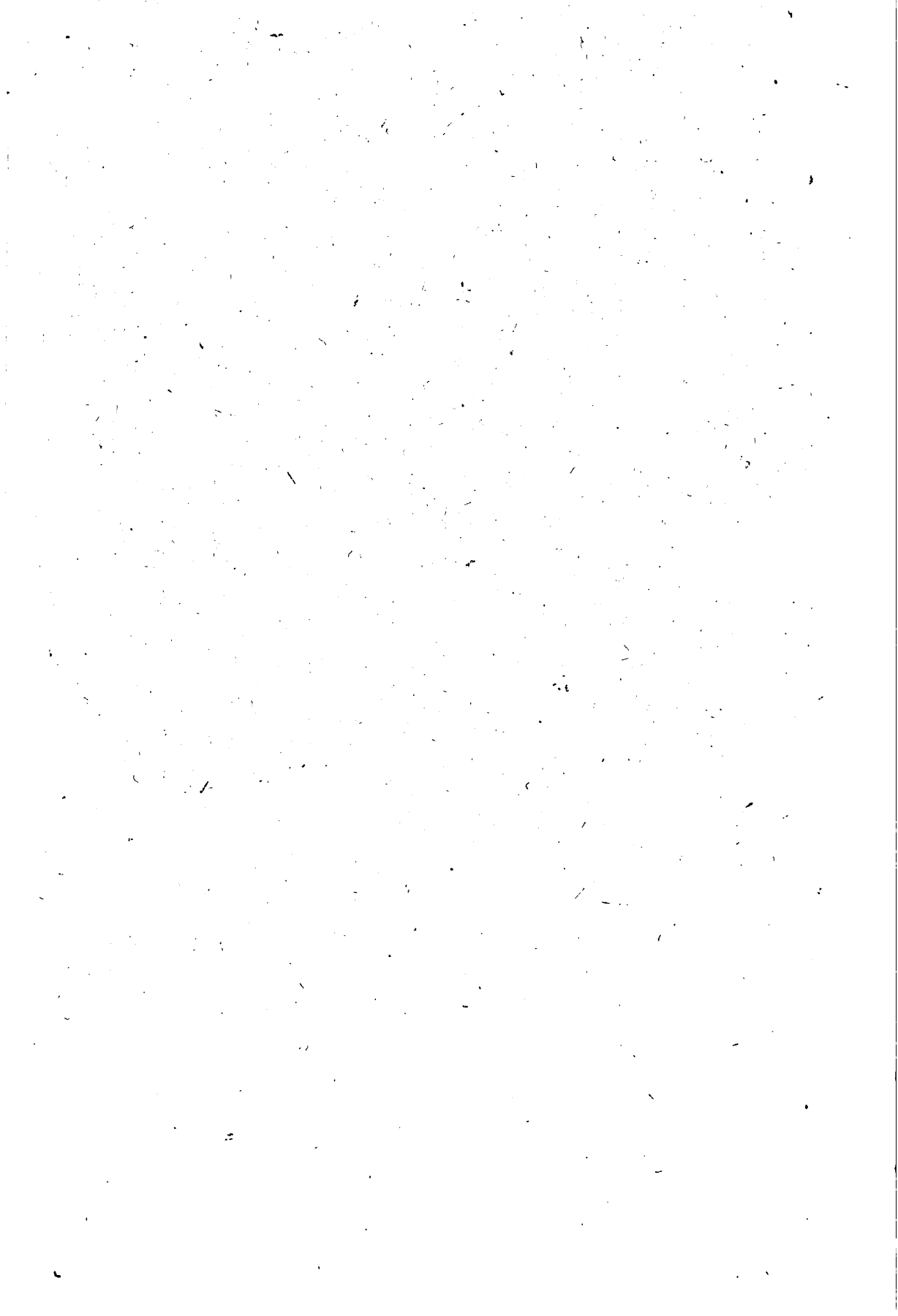
"I know absolutely nothing about the firing by even one civilian of Louvain."

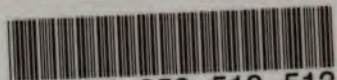
With high regards,

E. COENRAETS

Vice-rector of the University of Louvain

That is the statement of Mgr. Coenraets.





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